

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PORT O 01303 251220Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00
L-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 IO-13 /064 W
-----048332 251327Z /50

R 251145Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2346
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMCONGEN MONTREAL
AMCONGEN TORONTO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT OF SPAIN 1303

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, ELAB, TD
SUBJECT: BWIA AND TTAS TO BE REPLACED BY SINGLE NEW AIRLINE

REF: PORT OF SPAIN 1166 AND PREVIOUS

1. THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, GEORGE CHAMBERS, IN PARLIAMENT ON APRIL 21 ANNOUNCED GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO CLOSE DOWN STATE-OWNED BWIA AND TTAS (DOMESTIC FLIGHTS) AND CREATE A SINGLE NEW AIRLINE IN THEIR PLACE. IN SETTING UP THE NEW AIRLINE, GOVERNMENT WILL EVIDENTLY FOLLOW MOST OF THE OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SO-CALLED PERKINS COMMITTEE, WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED TO STUDY AND MAKE SUGGESTIONS ON THE FUTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE AIR SERVICES. THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS COVERED VIRTUALLY EVERY ASPECT OF BWIA'S AND TTAS'S STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS. SEPARATE COMMITTEES HAVE BEEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PORT O 01303 251220Z

NAMED TO DRAW UP THE ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION; TO EXAMINE THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE PERKINS REPORT; AND TO CONSIDER AIRCRAFT REQUIREMENTS. COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON BILATERAL AIR AGREEMENTS WILL ALSO BE REVIEWED. NO TARGET DATE FOR THE CREATION OF THE NEW AIRLINE OR THE COMMENCEMENT OF ITS OPERATIONS HAS BEEN GIVEN, HOWEVER.

2. COMMENT: THE PERKINS COMMITTEE REPORT WAS CRITICAL OF BOTH AIRLINES BUT OF BWIA IN PARTICULAR. THE MAJOR REASON WHY THE NEW AIRLINE WILL BE SET UP PRESUMABLY IS TO ENABLE GOVERNMENT TO AVOID THE ENDLESS PROBLEMS IT FORESEES IF IT WERE TO ATTEMPT TO REFORM AND RESTRUCTURE THE EXISTING ORGANIZATIONS. THESE ARE MAINLY MANAGEMENT WEAKNESSES, UNION AND LABOR PROBLEMS, AND OTHER DIFFICULTIES. IF GOVERNMENT IS SERIOUS ABOUT CARRYING OUT THE KIND OF COMPLETE OVERHAUL IT IS TALKING ABOUT, WE HAVE NO IDEA YET ABOUT THE STARTING-UP TIME REQUIRED. IN ANY EVENT, IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT THE CARIBBEAN WILL HAVE TO CONTINUE FOR SOMETIME TO DO WITHOUT ITS MAJOR REGIONAL CARRIER.

3. THE CHAMBERS ANNOUNCEMENT LEAVES MANY IMPORTANT QUESTIONS UNANSWERED. NOTHING WAS SAID, FOR EXAMPLE, ABOUT BWIA'S 126 STRIKING PILOTS. THERE IS INCREASING EVIDENCE THAT SOME OF THEM ARE DRIFTING OFF TO OTHER JOBS ABROAD. WITHOUT THESE MEN THE NEW AIRLINE WILL BE UNABLE TO FIND THE QUALIFIED TRINIDADIAN PILOTS IT WILL NEED. MOREOVER, THE CHANGE MAY INVOLVE RENEGOTIATION OF SOME CIVIL AIR AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. (FYI: A CANADIAN EMBOFF HAS TOLD US THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD PROBABLY WANT TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN ANY NEW CIVIL AIR AGREEMENT WITH TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, A PROCESS WHICH COULD TAKE ADDITIONAL TIME). THUS, WHILE THE BROAD POLITICAL DECISION ON HOW TO DEAL WITH THE AIRLINE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PORT O 01303 251220Z

MESS HERE HAS APPARENTLY BEEN MADE, WE SEE A NUMBER OF SERIOUS PROBLEMS AHEAD BEFORE THE NEW AIRLINE GETS ITS WHEELS OFF THE RUNWAY.
FOX

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRLINES, CLOSURE OF OFFICES, ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICES, REORGANIZATIONS, AIRCRAFT PILOTS, LABOR STRIKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PORTO01303
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780176-0483
Format: TEL
From: PORT OF SPAIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780420/aaaaaqde.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2d0349a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 66 PORT OF SPAIN 1166
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2858794
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BWIA AND TTAS TO BE REPLACED BY SINGLE NEW AIRLINE
TAGS: EAIR, ELAB, TD, BWIA, TTAS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2d0349a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014